

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CARICOM

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS MINISTER HOYTE'S ADDRESS BEFORE GSP
SEMINAR

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 2229, (B) GEORGETOWN 2245

1. AN ADDRESS BY GOG MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DESMOND HOYTE (REPORTED REF A) OPENING A CARICOM GSP
SEMINAR WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN EDITORIAL IN THE NOVEMBER 6
GUYANA "CHRONICLE." THE EDITORIAL BASICALLY OUTLINED THIS
SPEECH, REITERATING MINISTER HOYTE'S REMARKS ON (A) "UNCLE
TOMISM," (B) "DANGERS" TO CARICOM OBJECTIVES AND PEOPLE,
(C) THE RESPONSE OF "SOME MEMBERSTATES" TO "THIRTY PIECES
OF SILVER."

2. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON MINISTER HOYTE'S "COURAGE" IN
IDENTIFYING AREAS OF CARICOM DISUNITY. UNITY AND SELF-
RELIANCE, THE EDITORIAL STRESSED, WERE THE ONLY MEANS TO
RESIST THE "EROSION" OF CARICOM. THE EDITORIAL
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OPINED THAT ONLY A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE

PURPOSE OF CARICOM WOULD ELIMINATE "UNCLE TOMISM."
THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED: QUOTE TRADITIONALLY AND
POLITICALLY, UNCLE TOM WAS A CHARACTER WHO,
PARADOXICALLY, HAD NO CHARACTER, AND WHOSE
DEPENDENCE FORE-FATED HIM TO BE THE PAWN IN HIS
MASTER'S GAME TO (SIC) CHESS. WHEN SUCH A
CREATURE APPEARS ON THE CARIBBEAN SCENE, IT
INEVITABLY SPREADS WHAT COMRADE HOYTE CALLS
"A PALL OF GLOOM." END QUOTE.

3. AN ARTICLE IN THE NOVEMBER 7 ISSUE OF THE PNC
ORGAN "NEW NATION" STRESSED MORE OF THE ECONOMIC
ASPECTS OF MINISTER HOYTE'S SPEECH. THIS
LATTER ARTICLE TOUCHED UPON THE FOLLOWING HIGH-
LIGHTS FROM MINISTER HOYTE'S SPEECH: (A) "UNCLE
TOMISM" IS A THREAT TO THE EXISTENCE OF CARICOM,
(B) CARICOM COUNTRIES COULD NOT GO IT ALONE IN THE
FACE OF "INTERNATIONAL TRADING BLOCS LIKE THE
EEC," (C) GUYANA WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO THE
"IMPORTATION OF SOME ONE BILLION DOLLARS OF
FOODSTUFFS FROM OVERSEAS BY MEMBER COUNTRIES OF
CARICOM," (D) CARICOM EXISTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE CARIBBEAN ECONOMY, (E) CARICOM LOOPHOLES
EXIST WHICH ALLOW CERTAIN TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES
TO IMPORT, REPACKAGE AND SELL IMPORTED FOODS ON THE
LOCAL MARKET.

4. COMMENT: THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS GSP SEMINAR
REMAINED CORDIAL AND TECHNICAL AND UNAFFECTED BY
MINISTER HOYTE'S OPENING REMARKS. HOYTE'S TONE
AND TOPIC SEEMED TO BE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR
SINCE MOST CARICOM REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRIMARILY
INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING PROCEDURES AND
TECHNICALITIES OF GSP SCHEMES, NOT WITH
CARICOM POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES.
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